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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Swimming Lesson Voucher
3 Program; creating s. 514.073, F.S.; creating the
4 program within the Department of Health for a
5 specified purpose; requiring the department to
6 establish a network of swimming lesson vendors to
7 participate in the program; authorizing the department
8 to contract with certain nonprofit organizations to
9 assist in establishing the network; requiring the
10 department or a contracted nonprofit organization to
11 attempt to secure a vendor in each county; requiring
12 certain vendors to participate in the program if
13 requested by the department; requiring the department
14 to establish an application process; specifying
15 eligibility criteria for the program; providing that
16 the program is subject to specific appropriation;
17 authorizing the department to seek grants or other
18 public and private funding for the program; requiring
19 the department to adopt rules; providing an
20 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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24 Section 1. Section 514.073, Florida Statutes, is created to
25 read:

26 514.073 Swimming Lesson Voucher Program.—

27 (1) There is created within the department the Swimming
28 Lesson Voucher Program. The purpose of the program is to
29 increase water safety in this state by offering vouchers for

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30 swimming lessons at no cost to families with an income of no
31 more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level who have one
32 or more children 4 years of age or younger.

33 (2) The department shall do all of the following to
34 implement the program:

35 (a) Establish a network of swimming lesson vendors that
36 will accept the vouchers offered by the program in exchange for
37 providing swimming lessons. To establish the network, the
38 department may contract directly with swimming lesson vendors or
39 contract with one or more nonprofit organizations that promote
40 swimming safety to subcontract with and manage swimming lesson
41 vendors in one or more counties, or both. To ensure that
42 swimming lessons are available throughout this state, the
43 department, either directly or through a contracted nonprofit
44 organization, must attempt to secure at least one such vendor in
45 each county. Any swimming lesson vendor that offers swimming
46 lessons at a public pool that is owned or maintained by a county
47 or municipality must, if requested by the department or by a
48 nonprofit organization contracted by the department, participate
49 in the program.

50 (b) Establish a method for members of the public to apply
51 for swimming lesson vouchers and for determining an applicant's
52 eligibility. The department shall establish eligibility criteria
53 necessary for a family to receive one or more vouchers from the
54 program, including, but not limited to, the following:

55 1. The age of each child for whom a voucher is being
56 sought, who may be no more than 4 years of age.

57 2. The family income level, which may be up to 200 percent
58 of the federal poverty level.

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59 3. The family's address of residency in this state.

60 (c) Subject to specific appropriation, issue vouchers to
61 eligible applicants.

62 (3) The department may seek grants or other public or
63 private funding for the program.

64 (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement the
65 program.

66 Section 2. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of
67 \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
68 Revenue Fund to the Department of Health to fund the Swimming
69 Lesson Voucher Program established by this act.

70 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.